

NH State Rehabilitation Council

NH STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

MEETING MINTUES

September 23, 2021

Room 100 – Walker Building/Zoom Teleconference

Attendees: Christopher Purington, Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Vice-Chair, Lauri Jean Pevear, Dawn Breault, Lorrie Ripley, Holly Cadwallader, Kristin McGraw, Courtney Lockwood, Bret Cote, Carrie Dudley, Ben Adams, Lisa Gerrard, Brandy Pappas, Andrea Kaneb, Maureen O'Donnell

Prospective Members: Jessica Brennan, Nathalie Fortier

Excused: Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Kimm Phillips

Staff: Sue Roma, Ella McAllister, Dan Frye, Tina Greco, Dee Clanton, Jim Piet

Interpreters: Diane Aseltine-Grzyb, Laurie Meyer, Denise Gracia (CART)

The Chair of the SRC, Chris Purington, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and announced that today's meeting will be an abbreviated version of our regularly scheduled one as the VR Director has been called out of state due to a family emergency. Her update will be rescheduled to the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the SRC meeting of June 24, 2021 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

New Member Introduction & Vote: Daniel Frye, Administrator of Services for Blind and Visually Impaired, was in attendance today to introduce two new prospective members of the SRC, Jessica Brennan and Nathalie Fortier. Both Ms. Brennan and Ms. Fortier's vitae have been reviewed by the Executive Committee and are recommend for membership.

Ms. Brennan is a certified Rehabilitation Counselor, holding a master's degree in Rehab Counseling from Assumption College and a Bachelor's Degree in Health Policy Management from Providence College in R.I. She currently is employed with NHVR covering a specialized caseload in the Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Unit. She also has general caseload experience working with the Vermont Vocational Rehabilitation agency. She will be replacing Karen-Martin Brown on the SRC representing VR Counselors.

Nathalie Fortier is the current Chief Financial and Operational Officer for *Future in Sight* where she has worked for over 7 years in various capacities. Nathalie has a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's in Accounting. Her background includes experience in both nonprofit and for profit entities which she believes will benefit the SRC. She is replacing David Morgan on the SRC.

A motion was made by Dawn Breault to recommend both of these individuals for membership and that their names be forwarded to the Governor for formal appointment. This motion passed unanimously.

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CAP UPDATE: Lorrie Ripley gave an update on CAP activities since the last meeting. All in all, things are relatively quiet and she continues to monitor a few cases of customers who have contacted her for information and assistance. Lorrie noted that the GCD accessibility specialist has moved on and the job will be posted.

Lorrie is pleased to share that there are currently 534 open STABLE accounts in NH and she continues to work in getting the word out about STABLE through presentations to various entities.

REPORT OUT FROM COMMITTEES:

- **Membership:** Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre reported that the Membership Committee has not met more than once since the last meeting due to various scheduling issues. She would like to schedule another orientation for the people who were recommended for membership today. In the coming weeks/months, the Committee will continue to look at membership requirements and try to identify representatives of the business community to engage with the SRC.
- **Policy:** Courtney Lockwood reported that the Policy committee met just prior to this SRC meeting where she went over her review of the proposed policies for general provisions for all VR services, prior approval, supportive services, computer purchases, guidance and counseling and comparable benefits. The highlights of the committee's review can be sent to the full committee if people are interested in seeing them before being submitted back to Ella McAllister.
- **State Plan:** Bent Cote reported that the major work the State Plan committee has been looking at are the goals that were identified and how we will collect the data for the measurables. He did get a preview of the goal measurement data but noted it is still a work in progress that he feels he cannot share as of yet. He will connect with Lisa Hinson-Hatz and her administrative team before taking further action and hopes to have an update before the next meeting.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS: Susan Roma presented the slate of officers and asked the membership if there were any additional nominations. As there were none, a motion was made to approve the slate as presented for the SRC officers for the coming year: Christopher Purington, Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre 1st Vice Chair and Lauri Jean Pevear 2nd Vice Chair. This motion was approved unanimously.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

November 4, 2021

January 27, 2022

April 28, 2022

June 23, 2022

As no further business was brought forth to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 pm.